

Ardmore

BAPTIST CHURCH

Connecting People with Jesus Christ

Missions Banquet

Wednesday, December 4

5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Our guests will be Jack and Bert Yates, retired IMB missionaries to Kenya. Join us and learn how your prayers and resources have helped to share God's love with people in that part of the world.

Reservations needed. *If you have standing reservations for most Wednesday suppers, **you need to make separate reservation for this banquet.*** Please call the church office or register/pay via Realm (<https://tinyurl.com/CmasMissionBanquet>).

Notes Of Gratitude

Greg Hannah

Martha Crist & Family

Barbara Hudgens

Our Mission:

"To connect people of all ages with Jesus Christ and each other in life-changing relationships."



Like most people in our culture, I do not like to wait. I get frustrated when my coffee maker takes longer than usual, I do not enjoy standing in line at the airport, and I struggle to not look up spoilers before the release of an upcoming movie. We do not like to wait.

But the season of Advent is about waiting. During Advent we join with the Israelites in waiting for the coming Messiah and we also recognize that we are still waiting for Christ's Second Coming in which he will establish the kingdom of God on earth.

The temptation is to rush immediately into the lights, noise, and rush of Christmas. Advent invites us to enter into the quiet darkness of patience and waiting. As we prepare our hearts and minds to enter into Christmastide, we reflect on four virtues that we know Jesus Christ brings to our souls: hope, peace, joy, and love.

This year at Ardmore Baptist Church we will enter into the season of Advent on Sunday, December 1. Each week we will light a candle on a wreath that represents the four Advent virtues. You will notice that we will have more time of expectant prayer and we will sing songs of Advent waiting.

We will pray together for hope, peace, joy, and love as we join our voices to pray:

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night

And death's dark shadows put to flight

Prayers of Advent

December 1 – *An Advent Prayer of Hope* (Isaiah 2:1-5)

December 8 – *An Advent Prayer of Peace* (Isaiah 11:1-9)

December 15 – *An Advent Prayer of Joy* (Isaiah 35:1-10)

December 22 – *An Advent Prayer of Love* (Isaiah 7:10-16)

Advent Traditions



Advent is a special time to ready our hearts for the coming of Christ into the world. The traditions we make around Advent set the stage for how we pay attention to God's presence. Here are a few ways Ardmore folks prepare. How are you intentional this season?

"Now that our son is a toddler, we're looking at what traditions we want to

create for his childhood Christmas experience. We will create a tradition with the Advent wreath. We also strolled through Tanglewood for the light display. We plan to make salt dough hand/foot ornaments as gifts and we'll be baking."

Allison Anderson

"We asked our girls how we wanted to give back... where to volunteer or which group of people to help. We decided to set up an Advent calendar where we pray for someone different each day and let the girls pick who it is."

Megan Berlinger

"We make an Advent wreath that sits on our table and invite people over for dinner each week to light the candle together. We also bake goodies and deliver them to our neighbors."

Jason Ritchie

Hosting Local Teams

The church was full of energy and talk as 55 football players and coaches entered. The rumble wasn't just empty stomachs hoping for a filling meal but an excitement for what could be a conference championship and more. The noise was like music flowing through the halls of a building that craves the presence of people. They circled and huddled around as I gave an introduction to the church, a welcome, and blessed the food. There was an eagerness that engulfed the space, eager to eat, eager to see, eager to absorb what else they might receive. As they filed in, it was like a whisper heard from a player that my ear was able to capture ... "this place is big, I've never been to church." It hit me like a ton of bricks. Never been to church? There are still people who haven't entered doors like these anywhere? I stood, stunned ... a joy would later come over me as we served these players, chatted with them, and listened to them. We had a chance to show what the church really is; to be Christ to one who hasn't heard or seen. The time was short as the team only stayed 40 minutes before piling onto the buses and heading back to the field. But we were able to sit with them, laugh with them, hear stories, provide encouragement, and more. The moments were short but precious as we became community players, coaches, adult volunteers, youth and kid volunteers as well.



Something special happens when we serve together. Special things take place when we eat together. When we don't have any notions about an experience but are open to what the time brings, then we have given God space to change lives. In the past month we have been able to host the RJ Reynolds soccer team and Parkland JV and Varsity football teams. Each moment gave us an opportunity to invest in players and coaches, to plant seeds, and to help them see what church can be.

As we continue to walk through each day, can we be more mindful of the interactions that might be an opportunity to speak life, to be one who "hosts" another to share, to sit with you, to be heard, to celebrate together?

- Dane Martin

Ardmore Snapshot



Wes Salisbury has been a member of Ardmore Baptist since 1991. Wes is married to Kathryn and they have one daughter, Lilyana. Wes currently serves on our Deacon Council.

How did you come to be at Ardmore Baptist Church? What made you feel like you belonged? I grew up here. My family moved to Winston-Salem in 1980 (the year I was born) and we began attending Ardmore shortly after. We lived in the Ardmore neighborhood on Westover Drive. My folks liked the community aspect of the church as well as the fellowship and the preaching. J.L. Wilson was the pastor then. I admired him and enjoyed his preaching, even as a young person. Sermons are how I connect most deeply in worship. I feel at home at Ardmore because of the high-quality traditional music and the preaching. I also

feel at home because Ardmore is an accepting environment. There are people with various viewpoints and different backgrounds. Ardmore is accepting of those different viewpoints as well as the people who hold them. I left for a while and came back when I was in my 20s. When I came back, I was accepted. Beth Haire taught my Sunday School class when I was a child, and Beth and Carroll enthusiastically accepted me when I came back (as well as many others). They welcomed me with open arms, and now that I have a wife and a child, they show love to my family, too. As a young adult I shared many of my faith struggles – wrestling with Christianity and the Bible – with Bill Ireland and Ty Talton. They were always affirming of my own process during this time. As Dr. Ireland once said, “Jesus likes one who questions, as the answer always come back to Him.”

What gives you hope? With regards to the church, we are adaptable as a fellowship. Even with all the change in the last few years, we have remained flexible. We are willing to examine the way we do things and are open to new ideas. We are working to “be the change we want to see in the world.”

Personally, I am hopeful for continued spiritual growth in my faith journey. I now have a big responsibility to provide a spiritual foundation for my child; and I want to provide her with the experience and the exposure to Jesus through the fellowship at Ardmore so she can make informed decisions on her own.

How is your life different because you follow Jesus? I am a product of grace and mercy. I always heard grace defined as ‘getting what you don’t deserve’ and mercy as ‘not getting what you do deserve.’ I’ve been through very difficult trying times that I probably shouldn’t have made it out of. I can look back to those times and see how I was always in God’s care. Now, when I’m in a tough situation and find myself worrying, I ask myself, “Has there ever been a time when I haven’t been in the care of God?” If the answer is ‘no,’ then why would I now believe any different? Nobody’s ever said, “I’m so glad I spent all that time worrying about that thing that turned out to be okay.”

What is God teaching you or showing you in this current season of life? I’m being prepared for sacrificing a lot more than I had to in the past for the benefit of my family unit – my marriage and child and family. I think I’m being prepared to reduce how self-centered I am. God is making me aware of my own desires, self-centeredness, and wants. I take stock of what the benefits and costs are of the decisions I make. If I want to have joy and significance over the next years of my life, I need to make sacrifices and let some things go. I need to continue to be flexible and adaptable. I need to make decisions for the benefit of other people.

What is something folks at Ardmore may not know about you that you could share? Aside from the preaching, my other favorite thing about worship is our strong music tradition – especially hymns. As a kid, I was always self-conscious of singing in church, but now I’m pretty “enthusiastic” when a favorite hymn is in the lineup. Can’t wait for “O Come All Ye Faithful” in December!

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We Welcome You!



Stephanie Elliott
(Andrew & Connor)



Tommy Lather

Bright Christmas

Our annual churchwide Christmas mission project is Sunday, December 8. Each person is asked to bring assigned food items to the Fellowship Hall that morning. These will be given to Crisis Control for people in need. A list of items assigned by Sunday Bible Study classes will be available in SBS boxes, at the Welcome Center, and on our website (<https://tinyurl.com/BrightCmasList>). If you are not in a Bible Study class, please choose any item from the list.

Ardmore ABCs...

Congratulations to:

Sam & Linda Moore married 55 years on December 12;
Mark & Kathy Ernstes married 40 years on December 15;
Robert & Janice Jarrett married 55 years on December 24

Handicrafters Thank You!

As **Ardmore Handicrafters** celebrates 17 years of serving others, we would like to thank you, the Ardmore Baptist Church family and friends.

You have given us the opportunity to fulfill our passion and commitment of using gifts and talents to serve others for 17 wonderful years. Each month, we devote over 700 hours to creating items filled with love and prayers. These items have no boundaries in bringing comfort to those struggling with life.

Without your love and support, this ministry would not be possible. Thank you for blessing us as we "do what we do" as He leads and directs the Handicrafters ministry of our church.

For the Record – October 29 - November 24

ATTENDANCE				STEWARDSHIP		
DATE	SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY	MORNING WORSHIP		BUDGET RECEIPTS	YEAR-TO-DATE	
		8:15	10:45			
10/27	404	91	411	\$25,779	Needs	\$1,762,111
11/3	461	102	398	\$41,754	Receipts	\$1,669,918
11/10	427	96	439	\$31,091	Over/(Under)	(\$92,194)
11/17	454	127	488	\$25,361		
11/24	484	98	462	\$48,482		